

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 867
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Terry Keeter.

WHEREAS, Terry Keeter, a native of El Dorado, Arkansas, and journalism graduate of The University of Mississippi, has written about politics and politicians during his career as a news reporter. He has written about every Tennessee Governor from Ray Blanton to Don Sundquist and every President from Lyndon Johnson to Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, during the 1960s in Mississippi he reported on the Ku Klux Klan and the slaying of three young civil rights workers, and became a news director of a TV station in Meridian, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, he worked for the *Clarion-Ledger* newspaper in Jackson, Miss., and two smaller newspapers in Mississippi before he came to *The Commercial Appeal* in 1972; and

WHEREAS, he performed general assignment reporting before becoming a longtime political editor and columnist, was an investigative reporter, was dedicated to his journalism calling, and is known for his probing stories, his accuracy, his acerbic wit and colorful language; and

WHEREAS, as a 5-year old, Terry dreamed of being a newspaperman and brought that dream to realization by putting out a mimeographed neighborhood newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Terry Keeter never wanted to be anything but a journalist and is widely recognized by those he covered as a tough-minded, but fair reporter; and

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WHEREAS, even his closest friends think of him as an irreverent, crusty person, but acknowledge he is so soft-hearted that he often cries unashamedly at both good and bad news; and

WHEREAS, his first participation in the Memphis Gridiron show was in the early '70s when he had a couple of small roles; he continued to appear in and write for the Gridiron, was elected president of the Memphis Gridiron Show, Inc., in 1982 and has served in that capacity ever since; and

WHEREAS, his professional excellence and outstanding reporting skills have resulted in several newspaper awards, never mentioned by Terry Keeter in his conversations; and

WHEREAS, over the years, he built up many news sources in the tri-state area and is highly regarded as a trustworthy newshound who keeps his word; and

WHEREAS, he is the father of two grown children, Paige and Scott, and grandfather of two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the 1998 Memphis Gridiron Show was a tribute to Mr. Keeter and his distinguished and colorful career after a recent lengthy illness; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Tennessee General Assembly recognizes Terry Keeter for his professionalism and service to humanity, and wishes him good health and continuing success in his further endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.